

Bahasa Binan: The Languages of Indonesia's Gay Men and Transgender Women and People Related to Them

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The paper describes the different linguistic varieties and ways of using them by gay men and transgender women (waria) and people related to them in one way or the other in Indonesia. Formation of special words will be described as well as the semantics and its social and cultural implications. A social contextual analysis will initially locate the special varieties vis-à-vis other varieties currently spoken in Indonesia, then discuss (a) the position of gay men and waria in Indonesian society and (b) what bahasa binan tells us about language and language use in the society.